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said two ends; and an over-wrap bag enclosing one of said ends, said over-wrap bag being attached to said flange for maintaining sterility of said enclosed end.

5. The connector assembly of claim 1 wherein the end of said connector which is not enclosed is attached to a large fluid-processing bag.

7. A sterile connector assembly comprising: a connector having two ends; a flange formed on said connector intermediate said two ends; a sealing bag attached to said flange enclosing one end of said connector; and a second bag enclosing the said connector and said sealing bag for double sealing said end of said connector enclosed by said sealing bag, whereby said second bag is open in a sterile field so that the exposed end of the connector may be attached to sterile tubing said other end of said connector remaining sealed in said sealing bag to maintain its sterility.

10. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said flange is curved.

11. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said flange is flat.

12. The sterile connector assembly of claim 7 wherein said sealing bag is attached to said flange by a heat seal.

REMARKS AND ARGUMENT

The first Official Action dated October 25, 2002 has been carefully studied. The Official Action raised several issues. In response to the Official Action, the drawings are proposed to be amended regarding dual use of reference numeral "3" and cable tie 14.

The first issue raised in the official action is the rejection of claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite. Specifically, in claim 5, the phrase "the other end" in line 1 was noted as indefinite. In response to this rejection, claim 5 has been amended by